

may be exempt from disclosure to public. Each situation will need to be reviewed individually and in accordance with guidance provided by 43 CFR part 2.

Subpart 3267—Geothermal Drilling Operations Relief and Appeals

§ 3267.10 May I request a variance from any BLM requirements which apply to my drilling operations?

(a) Yes, you may request a variance regarding your approved drilling operations from the requirements of 43 CFR 3200.4. Your request must include enough information to explain:

(1) Why you cannot comply; and
(2) Why you need the variance to control your well, conserve natural resources, protect public health and safety, property, or the environment.

(b) We may approve your request verbally or in writing. If BLM gives you a verbal approval, we will follow up with written confirmation.

§ 3267.11 How may I appeal a BLM decision regarding my drilling operations?

You may appeal our decisions regarding your drilling operations in accordance with 43 CFR 3200.5.

Subpart 3270—Utilization of Geothermal Resources—General

§ 3270.10 What types of geothermal operations are governed by the utilization regulations?

(a) The regulations in 43 CFR subparts 3270 through 3279 cover the permitting and operating procedures for the utilization of geothermal resources. This includes:

(1) Electrical generation facilities;
(2) Direct use facilities;
(3) Related utilization facility operations;
(4) Actual and allocated well field production and injection; and
(5) Related well field operations.

(b) The utilization regulations in subparts 3270 through 3279 do not address conducting exploration operations, which are covered in subpart 3250 of this part, or drilling wells intended for production or injection, which are covered in subpart 3260 of this part.

§ 3270.11 What general standards apply to my utilization operations?

Your utilization operations must:

(a) Meet all operational and environmental standards;
(b) Prevent unnecessary impacts to surface and subsurface resources;
(c) Result in the maximum ultimate recovery;
(d) Result in the beneficial use of geothermal resources with minimum waste;
(e) Protect public health, safety and property; and,
(f) Comply with the requirements of 43 CFR 3200.4.

§ 3270.12 What other orders or instructions may BLM issue me?

(a) Geothermal resource operational orders, for detailed requirements that apply nationwide;
(b) Notices to lessees, for detailed requirements on a statewide or regional basis;
(c) Other orders and instructions specific to a field or area;
(d) Permit conditions of approval; and
(e) Verbal orders which will be confirmed in writing.

Subpart 3271—Utilization Operations: Getting a Permit

§ 3271.10 What do I need to start preparing a site and building and testing a utilization facility on Federal land leased for geothermal resources?

If you want to use Federal land to produce geothermal power, you have to get a site license and construction permit before you even start preparing the site. Send BLM a plan that shows what you want to do and write up a proposed site license agreement that you think is fair and reasonable. We will review it and decide whether or not to give you a permit and license to proceed with work on the site. Until and unless we do, don't even think about it.

§ 3271.11 Who may apply for a permit to build a utilization facility?

The lessee, the facility operator, or the unit operator may apply to build a utilization facility.